[29th January 1936

Number of claims filed and admitted to the preliminary electoral rolls of the South Kanara District Board.

* 561 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state the total number of new names claimed to be added to the preliminary list of electors for the South Kanara District Board this year and of the claims admitted by the Election Officer?

A.—Total number of claims for inclusion of new names in the electoral roll 55,916

Total number of claims admitted by the Election Officer 48,850

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"May I know the total number of voters in the preliminary rolls?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I am afraid the information is not available with the Government."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I ask whether the Government are investigating the question as to why there has been such a large omission, especially when, 48,850 out of 55,916 claims had to be admitted?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"The total number of claims was 55,916, while the number admitted was 48,850. This is not the first instance where many qualified voters had been found to be omitted in the preliminary rolls."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"May I know who was responsible for the preparation of the electoral rolls so carelessly in the first instance, and what action the Government have taken in regard to the conduct of that officer?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I think it is impossible to prepare these rolls accurately in the first instance, because in many cases the revenue accounts and other accounts would not be up to date at the time the preliminary roll is prepared. These rolls are prepared by the district election officer."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"From the figures given here, may I ask whether the Government realize that they must take some steps to avoid such careless preparation of rolls in the future?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Without a complete investigation it will not be wise on my part to say that it has been carelessly prepared. Moreover, when claims are received from duly qualified people, it is the duty of the officers to consider them."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Am I to understand the answer of the Chief Minister to mean that the omission of such a large number is due to the fact that the election officer or the officer who prepared the electoral rolls was not furnished at the time with revenue accounts, etc., regarding the registration of the land?"

29th January 1936]

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I am not speaking with particular reference to this district; generally it is found that after the preparation of the electoral rolls, many changes have to be made."

Alteration of the reserved seats of the Tinnevelly District Board.

* 562 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the reservation of seats in the Tinnevelly District Board has been altered; and

(*b*) if so, what the alterations made are and what the reasons are for each of such alterations?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The number of seats reserved for Muslims was raised from two to three and that of seats reserved for women reduced from two to one. The Government considered that Muslim community deserved an additional reserved seat on account of their numerical strength.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"May I ask whether this question of adequate representation of the Muslim community was not considered in the year 1932?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I cannot say whether it was considered or not; but from time to time representations have been made to me that the Muslim representation was inadequate. I considered that their claims were reasonable and the Government have finally decided to increase the number."

S. M. K. BEYABANI SAHIB Bahadur:—"May I know from the Hon. the Chief Minister whether similar representations have been received from the Muslims in regard to the other districts of the Presidency?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Representations have been received from time to time; but I cannot say from how many districts."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"We find here that the representation given to women has been reduced to one seat. May I ask whether it is the opinion of the Government that women have been over-represented till now?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"There is no over-representation in a special constituency. The Act lays down that the number of reserved seats should not exceed 25 per cent of the total number of general seats, and so the Government had to cut down the number of reserved seats by one for giving representation to one community. They thought this was the desirable course to adopt."

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—"May I ask the Hon. the Chief Minister whether he is not aware that woman is a force to be reckoned with?"